Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claims 18, 26, 27, 28 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the claims as indicated below:

Claim 1: (currently amended) A system comprising:

a network element;

a gateway managing the network element and receiving fault alarm incidents from the network element;

distributed management servers communicatively associated with said gateway, said distributed management servers receiving control from said gateway to process said fault alarm incidents; and

policy objects distributed across the distributed management servers so that each policy object resides on and is executable by a respective distributed management server, each policy object defining fault management behavior for managing the network element by the gateway, wherein a respective policy object is executed by the distributed management server on which the policy object resides in response to a respective fault alarm incident received by the gateway and associated with the policy object, to thereby implement the fault management behavior defined by the respective policy object in response to the respective fault alarm incident,

wherein said gateway is capable of determining which said policy object corresponds to said fault alarm incident, said gateway capable of selecting a distributed management server from said distributed management servers that is related to said policy object, said gateway capable of routing said fault alarm incident to said selected distributed management server, said gateway capable of transferring control of processing said fault alarm incident according to said policy object to said selected distributed management server.

Claim 2: (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a decision object stored in the gateway, the decision object defining decision behavior for routing fault alarm incidents received by the gateway from the network element to an appropriate distributed management server for execution of a policy object residing on said appropriate distributed management server.

Claim 3: (previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein said decision object is a data path tree associating attributes of the network element with a respective policy object.

Claim 4: (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a policy server communicatively coupled to the distributed management servers, the policy server storing policy objects and operable to distribute the stored policy objects to the distributed management server.

Claim 5: (previously presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising:

a policy builder user interface communicatively coupled to the policy server, the policy builder user interface operable to receive input from a user for defining policy objects.

Claim 6: (previously presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising:

a configuration file communicatively accessible by the policy server, the configuration file storing information defining the distributed management servers to which the policy objects are to reside.

Claim 7: (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

an alert server generating alerts based on fault conditions in accordance with the policy objects.

Claim 8: (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a management information base operable to store software objects corresponding to the network element.

Claim 9: (previously presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a policy builder comprising an interface operable to receive user input defining said information stored to the configuration file.

Claim 10: (previously presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the policy server comprises:

logic executable to distribute the policy objects to the distributed management servers in accordance with the configuration file.

Claim 11: (currently amended) A method comprising:

implementing a gateway managing a network element and receiving fault alarm incidents from the network element;

implementing distributed management servers <u>communicatively associated with the gateway, the distributed management servers receiving control from the gateway to process said fault alarm incidents</u>; and

providing policy objects distributed across the distributed management servers so that each policy object resides on, and executable by, a respective distributed management server, each policy object defining fault management behavior for managing the network element by the gateway, wherein a respective policy object is executed by the distributed management server on which the respective policy object resides in response to a respective fault alarm incident received by the gateway and associated with the respective policy object, to thereby implement the fault management behavior defined by the respective policy object in response to the respective fault alarm incident<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the gateway is capable of determining which of the policy objects corresponds to the fault alarm incident, the gateway capable of selecting a distributed management server from the distributed management servers that is related to the policy object, the gateway capable of routing the fault alarm incident to the selected distributed management server, the gateway capable of transferring control of processing the fault alarm incident according to the policy object to the selected distributed management server.</u>

Claim 12: (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

storing a decision object on the gateway, the decision object defining decision behavior for routing fault alarm incidents received by the gateway from the network element to an appropriate distributed management server for invoking execution of a respective policy object.

Claim 13: (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the decision object is a data path tree associating attributes of the network element with a respective policy object.

Claim 14: (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

storing the policy objects on a policy server communicatively coupled to the distributed management servers; and

policy server distributing the stored policy objects to the distributed management servers.

Claim 15: (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

user interacting with a policy builder interface that is communicatively coupled to said

policy server for defining the policy objects.

Claim 16: (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

determining an appropriate distributed management server of the distributed management servers to which a respective policy object stored on the policy server will be distributed, based at least in part on information stored in a configuration tile communicatively accessible by the policy server.

Claim 17: (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

an alert server generating an alert based on a fault condition for the network element in accordance with a respective policy object.

Claim 18: (CANCELED)

Claim 19: (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

user inputting said information stored to the configuration file.

Claim 20: (currently amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of gateways, each gateway managing a network element and receiving fault alarm incidents from the managed network element;

software objects, each software object defining fault management behavior for managing a network element; and

distributed management servers across which the software objects are distributed so that each software object resides on, and is executed by, a respective distributed management server, wherein a respective software object is executed by the distributed management server on which the respective software object resides in response to a respective fault alarm incident received by a respective gateway and associated with the software object, to thereby implement the fault management behavior defined by the software object in response to the respective fault alarm incident, said distributed management servers communicatively associated with said plurality of gateways, said distributed management servers receiving control from said plurality of gateways to process said fault alarm incidents;

wherein said plurality of gateways is capable of determining which said policy object corresponds to said fault alarm incident, said plurality of gateways capable of selecting a distributed management server from said distributed management servers that is related to said policy object, said plurality of gateways capable of routing said fault alarm incident to said selected distributed management server, said plurality of gateway capable of transferring control of processing said fault alarm incident according to said policy object to said selected distributed management server.

Claim 21: (previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein each gateway comprises:

logic for routing fault alarm incidents received by the network element managed by the respective gateway to the distributed management servers.

Claim 22: (previously presented) The system of claim 20 further comprising:

means for associating attributes of the managed network elements with the distributed management servers for implementing the fault management behaviors defined by the software objects.

Claim 23: (previously presented) The system of claim 20 further comprising:

means for distributing the software objects to the distributed management servers.

Claim 24: (previously presented) The system of claim 23 further comprising:

means for graphically generating the software objects.

Claim 25: (previously presented) The system of claim 20 further comprising:

means for generating alerts.

Claim 26: (CANCELED)

Claim 27: (CANCELED)

Claim 28: (CANCELED)

Claim 29: (CANCELED)